

Serial No. 10/706,394

Remarks

The various parts of the Office Action (and other matters, if any) are discussed below under appropriate headings.

Amendments

Claims 34, 38, 39 and 58-64 have been canceled. New claims 65-69 have been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and § 103

Claims 31-43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 2,786,399 to Mason ("Mason") and/or Mason in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,938,739 to Nilsson ("Nilsson").

Aside from some broadening amendments, claim 31 has been amended to include limitations of claim 34 and specify that the transversely opposed grippers transversely overlap one another while advancing the dunnage strip. In regard to the now-cancelled claim 34, the Examiner took the position that Mason discloses opposing grippers 33 that overlap the dunnage. Although this is not clear from the drawings and description of Mason, clearly the transversely opposed rollers 24, and also the transversely opposed rollers 23, do not have any portions thereof that transversely overlap the other. Instead, the transversely opposed rollers 24, or 23, are transversely spaced apart by the corresponding width of the paper strand. Moreover, there is lacking any suggestion or motivation to provide for any such overlap, even when considering the teachings of Nilsson which is relied on by the Examiner for unrelated reasons and which is concerned with the formation of an entirely different type of product.

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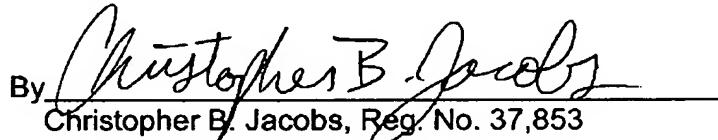
For at least similar reasons, newly added claims 65-69 are submitted as being patentable over Mason and Nilsson.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (703-872-9306) on the date shown below.

Date: May 9, 2005


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